Syllabus of the Malayalam Middle School Examination.

103. *Mr. K. Shahul Hameed (*Trivandrum and Nedumangad* cum *Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state why they have taken away Arabic from the syllabus of the Malayalam Middle School Examination?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: The syllabus for the Malayalam Middle School examination was revised and the optional subjects were abolished. Arabic which was an optional subject has therefore ceased to exist as an examination subject; but its teaching as a non-examination subject is continued.

Mr. K. Shahul Hameed: May I know whether the Department has any objection to make Arabic as an examination subject for Muslims?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: The question will be considered.

School Final Examination.

104. *Mr. M. K. Velu Pillai: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the percentage of passes in the recent School Final Examination from the Government Schools; and

(*b*) the percentage of passes from Aided Schools?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: (*a*) Percentage of passes in Government Schools 56·5.

(*b*) Percentage of Private Schools 57·7.

Arabic Munshi Lower and Higher Examinations.

105. *Mr. K. Shahul Hameed: Will the Government be pleased to state why they have suspended the Arabic Munshi Lower and Higher Examinations for two years?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: Paucity of candidates for the Arabic Munshi Examinations and the availability of qualified hands for appointment as Arabic Munshies.

Schools.

106. *Mr. M. K. Velu Pillai: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of schools abolished since 1114; and

(*b*) the number of aided schools of which the recoguition was withdrawn during the above period?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: (*a*) 166.

(*b*) 156.

Mr. K. S. Joseph (*Mavelikara and Tiruvella* cum *Pathanamthitta*): May I know the reasons for abolishing so many schools and for withdrawing recognition from so many schools? Are they common reasons?

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Mr. A. Gopala Menon : In some cases, the schools were voluntarily closed by the managers themselves. In some cases, the schools were asked to close because they did not satisfy the conditions imposed. I have got here a complete list of schools showing the reasons for closing each. In some cases, there was over-lapping ; in some cases the management was unsatisfactory, etc.

President : You may place that list on the table of the Secretary.

Mr. K. S. Joseph : Could not the help of the Department be given to them for putting them right ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : In many cases, help and advice were given by the Department. But many schools were closed either because they were unnecessary or because there was over-lapping.

Mr. K. S. Joseph : Will the member be pleased to explain the term 'unnecessary' ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : In some places there are other schools serving the same area with plenty of accommodation and where more pupils could be accommodated.

Mr. K. S. Joseph: Does the member suggest that there are too many schools in the State ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : There are too many schools in particular areas in the State.

Maintenance staff attached to the Alleppey Pier and Steam Winch.

107. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received any representation from the maintenance staff attached to the Alleppey Pier and Steam Winch praying that their conditions of service may be improved ; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, what action has been taken thereon ?

Mr. C. Kumara Das (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is being looked into.

Coir Trade Committee.

108. ***Mr. N. Narayana Kurup:** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have constituted a Coir Trade Committee ;

(*b*) what is the function of such Committee ;

(*c*) whether there is any in the Committee to represent the producer of coir yarn ;

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